WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit, arranged to input a rendering command;

5   a discriminator, arranged to discriminate a type of object to be rendered on the basis of the rendering command;

a judgment unit, arranged to judge based on the discrimination result if the object is to undergo a

10   correction process; and

a search unit, arranged to search for segmented objects obtained by breaking up a single image together with the object which is determined to undergo the correction process.

15   2.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a decision unit, arranged to decide a correction characteristic of the correction process on the basis of characteristics of segmented objects when the segmented objects are found.

20   3.   The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a correction unit, arranged to execute an identical correction process for a plurality of segmented objects that form the single image on the basis of the correction characteristic.

25   4.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said search unit searches for the segmented objects on the

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basis of a rendering position of the object indicated by the rendering command.

5.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said search unit has a memory for recording identification

5 information indicating the presence of candidates of the segmented objects in correspondence with a rendering region of the object and neighboring regions thereof.

6.   The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said

10 search unit determines that the segmented object is present when the identification information which neighbors or overlaps the rendering region of the object indicated by the rendering command to be processed is present.

15 7.   The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said search unit selects whether to record the identification information or not on the basis of a height or width of the segmented object and the number of objects within a page.

20 8.   The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decision unit comprises an extractor, arranged to extract a color or luminance distribution of the object which is determined to undergo the correction process.

9.   The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said

25 decision unit decides the correction characteristic by combining pieces of the color or luminance distribution

information extracted from a plurality of segmented objects that form the single image.

10.   An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting a rendering command;

discriminating a type of object to be rendered on the basis of the rendering command;

judging based on the discrimination result if the object is to undergo a correction process; and

searching for segmented objects obtained by breaking up a single image together with the object which is determined to undergo the correction process.

11.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of deciding a correction characteristic of the correction process on the basis of characteristics of segmented objects when the segmented objects are found.

12.   The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of executing an identical correction process for a plurality of segmented objects that form the single image on the basis of the correction characteristic.

13.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the segmented objects are searched for on the basis of a rendering position of the object indicated by the rendering command.

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14.   The method according to claim 13, wherein identification information indicating the presence of candidates of the segmented objects is recorded in a memory in correspondence with a rendering region of the object and neighboring regions thereof.

15.   The method according to claim 14, wherein it is determined that the segmented object is present when the identification information which neighbors or overlaps the rendering region of the object indicated by the rendering command to be processed is present.

16.   The method according to claim 14, wherein whether to record the identification information or not is selected on the basis of a height or width of the segmented object and the number of objects within a page.

.17.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the correction characteristic is decided on the basis of a color or luminance distribution of the object which is determined to undergo the correction process.

18.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the correction characteristic of a plurality of segmented objects that form the single image is decided by combining pieces of the color or luminance distribution information extracted from those segmented objects.

19.   A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having a computer program code, for an

image processing method, comprising process procedure

codes for:

inputting a rendering command;

discriminating a type of object to be rendered on

5   the basis of the rendering command;

judging based on the discrimination result if the

object is to undergo a correction process; and

searching for segmented objects obtained by

breaking up a single image together with the object

10   which is determined to undergo the correction process.

20.   The product according to claim 19, further

comprising a process procedure code for deciding a

correction characteristic of the correction process on

the basis of characteristics of segmented objects when

15   the segmented objects are found.